RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 24th August, 2001/2 *Bhadrapada,* 1923 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. Chairman *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*461. The questioner (Shri C.O. Poulose) was absent for Answer *vide* page 23 *infra*

Deemed University Status for Kerala Kalamandalam

*462. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request for treating Kerala Kalamandalam, Cheruthiruthy, Kerala, as a Deemed University is pending for a long time;

(b) whether this institution has fulfilled all the formalities for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delaying the decision on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The proposal Kerala Kalamandalam for granting Deemed to be University status was received and referred to UGC for examination and their recommendation/comments. Declaration of an institution as Deemed University is a statutory process done on fulfilment of several requirements under the guidelines. UGC has inforlned that the proposal has been examined and it has been decided to send an Expert Committee to make an on the spot examiniation of the proposal. The Expert Committee has been constituted and is likely to visit the Institution shortly to examine in detail the infrastructural facilities, academic and research programmes offered by the Institute etc.

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposal for treating the Kerala Kalamandalam as a Deemed University is pending with the U.G.C.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. V Raghavan.

for the last two years. Sir, on several occasions, they fixed the dates for an on the spot examination and intimated the institution about it, and thrice, they cancelled these dates, without assigning any reason. Sir, the Kerala Kalamandalam does not deserve such a treatment from the U.G.C. the institution has all the infrastructure. It has 32 acres of campus space and so many buildings. Top class art forms are being taught there and research work is also going on. Different art items such as Kathakali, Koodiyattam, Mohiniattam, Pancha Vadya, are now being taught there. And, it is an internationally recognised institution. Sir, my request is, such an irresponsible attitude on the part of the UGC must be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I request you to please have a word with the University Grants Commission so that its promise of making an on the spot examination is fulfilled. No further delay on this account can be tolerated. So, I request the hon. Minister to have a word with the University Grants Commission and tell them to go and have an on the spot examination at the earliest and give its report so that this prestigious institution of India can be given the status of a Deemed University. Please inform the House whether you will do it or not.

श्री बची सिंह रावतः सभापति जी, केरल कि कला मंडलम संस्था का देश में वास्तव में अपना एक स्थान है। संगीत, म्यूजिक, ड़ांस तथा अन्य ट्रेडिशयनल आर्ट्स के संबंध में यह यह एक प्रख्यात संस्था है और यूनिवर्सिटीज के तहत डिम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी घोषित किए जाने का प्रावधान है। इसको डिम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी का दर्जा दिए जाने के लिए केरल सरकार की ओर से पहला प्रसताव 6 अगस्त 1990 में प्राप्त हुआ और इस प्रस्ताव को यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रान्ट्स कमीशन को भेजा गया की वह इसकी जांच करे। इसी बीच में, इसीसे संबंध नई गाईड लाइंस तैयार की गई । कला मंडलम को दोबारा रिवाइज्ड गाइड लाइंस के मुताबिक अपना प्रस्ताव पेश करने के लए कहा गया है। 24 मई, 2000 को केरल सरकार को मांध्यम रिवाइज्ड प्रपोजल दुबारा मंत्रालय को प्राप्त हुआ और 14 जून,2000 यह प्रपोजल यू.जी.सी को प्रोसेस करने के लिए भेजा गया। इस संबंध में सारी औपचारिकताएं पूरी करने का बाद यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांटस कमीशन द्वारा अपनी बैठक में यह निर्णय लिया गया कि इनके प्रस्ताव कि औपचारिकताएं पूरी है और एक नौ-सदस्यी-कमेटी का गठन कर दिया गया तथा साथ ही यह भी निर्णय लिया गया कि कमेटी सारा दौरा करेगी। पहले इसमें जुलाई, 2001 को एक स्थलीय निरिक्षण होना था ताकि उसके इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर और तमाम औपचारिकताओं को देखा जाए लेकिन किसी कारणवश यह उस तिथि को नहीं हो पाया। मैं माननीय सदस्य को आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूं कि अलग सितम्बर माह में इसका दौरा किया जाएगा। हम कोशिश करेंगे कि कमेटी जल्द से जल्द यह दौरा करके स्पोट पर अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करे । यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन की बैठक में इस पर विचार किया जाएगा।

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, the reply that I have got from the Ministry is that they have referred the matter to the UGC for examination and for report. But, Sir, during the last two years they have not done anything in this regard. Thrice the dates were fixed and, then, without assigning any reason they unilaterally cancelled the dates. Such an irresponsible attitude on the part of the UGC puts a question mark on its intentions. Would the hon. Minister say that he would see to it that the UGC abandons this type of attitude and goes into the question seriously without any further delay?

श्री बची सिंह रावतः सभापति जी, जैसाकि मैंने पहले ही कहा कि इस संबंध में पहले जुलाई की तिथि तय हुई थी लेकिन किसी कारण से क्योंकि जो सदस्य हैं वे विभिन्न कला क्षेत्रों के एक्सपर्ट हैं, उनसे तिथि नहीं मिल पाई थी इसलिए अब यह दौरा सितम्बर में किया जा रहा है। हमारी ओर से उन्हें कहा जाएगा, कि वह सितम्बर में अवश्य इसका दौरा करें और अपनी रिपोर्ट दें।

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, I would like to know whether the guidelines already existed. If they existed already, what was the need for their revision. This is nothing but harassment of the universities.

Since we are connected with universities, we know how much preparations we have to make to meet the UGC Committee. So, part (b) of my question is whether the Committee had informed the university in time about the cancellation of its visit.

श्री बची सिंह रावतः सभापति जी माननीय सदस्या ने जो गाइड लाइंस रिवाइज्ड की गई है उनकी जानकारी मांगी है तो इस संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि गत वर्ष यू.जी.सी. के समक्ष यह विचार आया है देश के भीतर यह मांग बहुत बढ़ी है कि जो विशेषता प्राप्त संस्थाएं कार्य कर रही है उन्हें सम विश्वविद्यालय या डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी का दर्जा दिया जाए। जो दर्जा उन्हें देना है वह एक तो सैंट्रल एक्ट के जरिए, दूसरा स्टेट लेजिस्लेशन के जरिए और तीसरा यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन एक्ट के अंतर्गत धारा तीन में डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालय या सम विद्यालय का दर्जा देने का अधिकार दिया गया है। इसके लिए कुछ गाइड लाइंस और मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत तय किए गए थे। इसमें समय के अनुसार शिक्षा का स्तर एजुकेशन की क्वालिटी सुधरे...(**व्यवधान**)...

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, my point is whether the guidelines already existed before. If they were there, why were they revised?

श्री बची सिंह रावतः समय की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए देश में जो विशेषज्ञता कि मांग है वह चाहें इंजीनियरिंग के क्षेत्र में हो आर्ट्स के क्षेत्र में हो विभिन्न टेक्नीकल एजुकेशन के लिए ए.आई.सी.ई के माध्यम से हो या जहां तक मेडिकल का संबंध है एम.सी.आई. के माध्यम से

हो, यह विभिन्न संस्थाओं के माध्यम से आई है दूसरा मुख्य प्रश्न फाइनेशियल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के बारे में था। उसकी धनराशि पहले 50 लाख और 25 लाख तय थी, जिसको बढ़ाकर 5 करोड़ और 3 करोड़ करने का प्रावधान किया गया है इसके बारे में काफी लम्बी डिटेल्स है जो नई गाइड लाइंस हैं जो जो कि काफि लम्बी है उनको माननीय सदस्या को उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।

PROF. (SMT.) BHARATI RAY: What are the new guidelines? Why were they changed?

लाला लाजपत रायः सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय, से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यू.जी.सी., टैक्सटाइल युनिवर्सिटी पंजाब..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question does not come under this. स्पेसिफिकली यह क्वेश्चन केरल के बारे में हैं, पंजाब नहीं आ सकता है।

लाला लाजपत रायः ठीक है ।

SHRI A.VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Sir regarding the Kerala Kalamandalam, first, they have sent the proposal. I visited the office of the University Grants Commission six times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question. Whenever you want to ask a question, you take five minutes to explain it, then you put the question.

SHRI A VIAJYA RAGHAVAN: I visited the office of the UGC six times in regard to this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI A VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: They did not depute the Committee. I am a member of the Governing Body. I went from Delhi to Kerala and expected the Committee to visit, but they did not turn up. I want the Minister to explain to the people of Kerala, the reason for the delay. There is a batch which is expected to appear in the examination. They are studying there. Their future is at stake. You have to give a specific assurance to this House that the entire process would be completed within three months or six months. Regarding this issue, a time-frame should be given to the House.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: The Minister has said that he would be deputing a committee in the month of September.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: He may be deputing a committee in the month of September. I am not on that point. My point is, the entire process should over within a stipulated period. I want the Minister to give us that assurance in this House. You will deputing the comnuttee..(mte/rwpri0/w)... This is not saffronisation. The entire thing is in saffron colour. Kathakali dress

is saffron in colour. Don't worry about that...*(interruptions)*... I simply asked a question. Just give us an assurance in this House that this process would be over within a stipulated period. Regarding the visit of the committee. I am not on \haX...*(interruptions)*...

श्री बची सिंह रावतः सभापति जी, मैंने पहले भी माननीय सदस्यों को आवश्स्त किया है। कि सितम्बर माह में यह समिति निश्चितरूप से केरल का दौरा करेगी और वहां जाकर वह निरीक्षण करेंगी । उसकी जो आख्या उसकी जो रेकमन्डेशंस होंगी उनकी जो भी पहली बैठक यू.जी.सी. की होगी उसमें समीक्षा के लिए यह कमेटी प्रस्तुत करेगी और हमारा प्रयास होगा कि मंत्रालय में उस समीक्षा के आने पर जितनी जल्दी हो , उस पर निर्णय लिया जाए।

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Students are studying there. We want a time-frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 463.

Platform at Birur Junction

*463. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the platform at Birur junction railway station has not been raised to suit broad gauge trains;

(b) if so, whether the old people, women and children have to steeply climb down from the train at Platform No. 2 and again to get the Birur-Shimoga passenger train and *vice-versa;* and

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. All the platforms at Birur are suitable for broad gauge trains.

(b) and (c) Platform No. 1 has been raised to high level in February, 2000. As regards raising of platform nos. 2 and 3, the work has been sanctioned and will be taken up shortly.

SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Railways took up the gauge conversion during 1991—96 in Karnataka; and completed it very fast. But, unfortunately, the Railways did not think of providing platforms and